

August 7, 1950. The 98th repeatedly flew against the North Korean Communist forces until the cease fire in 1953. From August 1950 to July 1953, the 98th flew more than 5,000 sorties and dropped more than 40,000 tons of bombs. They earned 10 battle streamers and two Outstanding Unit Awards. They also received the South Korean Presidential Citation. Over the next several years the 98th would be re-designated, inactivated and reactivated until it found its current home as the 98th Range Wing at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

In 1949, Colonel Salvator Manzo, a former commander of the 98th Bombardment Group during World War II, began the idea of forming a veterans association for the 98th. In 1976 his idea became a reality when the 98th Bombardment Group Memorial Veterans Association was formed. B-29 and B-47 veterans were invited to join the group and spouses of deceased 98th veterans are given an honorary membership.

The week of September 2-6, 2003, the group will hold its annual reunion and ceremonies at the March Air Field Museum where commemorative tiles will be laid in honor of the 98th for their service and, in addition, their association name will be added to the prestigious "Flyers Wall" at the Historic Mission Inn. Our country is forever indebted to those individuals willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so that the rest of us may live freely and without fear. I consider it an honor and privilege to welcome the 98th Bombardment Veterans Association to my district to celebrate and remember their distinguished history; they are truly living legends.

MAJOR THOMAS HARDIN JR.

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Thomas Hardin, Jr., a World War II veteran from Spring Hill, Florida in my Fifth Congressional District.

Over the August recess, Mr. Speaker, I will have the honor of recognizing, Major Hardin for his heroism and bravery as a B-17 pilot, an American soldier flying—because there was no U.S. Air Force—with the British Royal Air Force on January 22, 1945.

On that date, the-then Lieutenant Hardin and his crew lead their formation through extremely intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire over Europe. During the mission, one of their plane's engines was knocked out and the propeller would not feather while oil and fuel were leaking from two other engines.

Despite the terrible odds for survival, Lieutenant Hardin's first concern was for the safety of his crew. He issued an order for his crew to prepare to bail out, but reconsidered, not wanting to risk the crew's capture by hostile forces.

Lieutenant Hardin succeeded in controlling his seriously damaged aircraft across the English Channel to the plane's home base, returning his crew safely to the ground. For his bravery, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by the Secretary of the Air Force.

Lieutenant Hardin continued his service to this nation as an officer in the army, flying a

total of 35 missions over Europe and engaged in combat during the Korean War. He retired as a major and this weekend, I will present Major Hardin's Distinguished Flying Cross to him, more than 50 years overdue.

Though he earned this honor, he never received it from the Defense Department and I am honored to have the opportunity to present to him next month the Distinguished Flying Cross for his selfless devotion to duty and service to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO THE 864TH HAM COMPANY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me to pay tribute to the members of the Third Army veterans 864th Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company on the occasion of their 48th annual reunion. They gathered together in Lapeer, Michigan on August 31st.

During World War II the 864th HAM Company was instrumental to the success of D-Day and the allied victory. These veterans of the Third Army were originally stationed at Fort Ord in California. During their stint at that post they worked with local authorities to defend the California coastline against a possible invasion by Japanese forces. The mobilization of troops during the first days of World War II was very rapid and troops were often barracked in makeshift quarters. The 864th HAM Company was no exception. When the Company was detailed to the community of Pomona California they were provided temporary barracks at the Sears and Roebuck store.

In 1943 the Company was transported from the United States to the South Hampton Naval Yard outside Portsmouth, England. For the next eight months the 864th HAM Company prepared the vehicles that were going to be a part of the D-Day invasion. In addition to this work they also trained as part of the invasion force.

The Company landed at St. Mere-Eglise France and immediately began the awesome task of supplying rations, ammunition, and medical supplies to the front lines. Under the leadership of General George S. Patton, the statistics for the Third Army during this time are staggering. 2,186,792 tons of supplies were transported. The Third Army had over 99,000 general purpose vehicles and over 21,000 combat vehicles. The veterans of the 864th HAM Company risked their lives to retrieve and repair damaged vehicles. Never shying away from the danger involved, the members of the 864th HAM Company were an integral part of General Patton's march to Berlin. Their versatility was demonstrated during the Battle of the Bulge as they quickly moved from Verdunne to help repel the German counter-attack.

Once the war in Europe ended, the 864th came home and were mustered out of the military in November 1945. As the members of the company scattered throughout the United States and began their civilian lives, they maintained contact with each other. In 1957 they gathered together for the first reunion and

the tradition of getting together to remember their fallen fellow soldiers, to reminisce, and share the civilian experiences was born. We as a nation are better for the sacrifices these veterans made so we could all be free. I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and honor the members of the 864th HAM Company. Again and again they have earned our respect and admiration and I am deeply grateful for their service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL MCKEAND

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic sacrifice of a young man from my district, who risked and then lost his own life while saving a friend.

Michael McKeand was an avid outdoorsman and vineyard manager in Santa Cruz. On July 7, he was returning from a music festival with friends when they stopped along Highway 70 near the Feather River in Plumas County.

Although the river appeared peaceful, there apparently was a strong undercurrent that swept one of McKeand's friends downstream. The 24-year-old man jumped in the water to help and eventually rescued the struggling friend. But in the process, the strong current slammed McKeand against a rock and he drowned.

No one who knew Michael McKeand was surprised to hear of his selfless deed. They were, however, shocked and saddened that the swollen waters of Feather River took his life.

His parents, David and Linda McKeand of Clovis, brother Steven and sister Candace, all mourn his loss, as do many other family and friends.

I invite my colleagues to join me in extending sympathies to McKeand's family, and in honoring their loved one.

TRIBUTE TO VA VOLUNTEER JOAN SHEEHAN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Sheenan, a constituent of mine who has selflessly given her time to the Veterans of my Fifth Congressional District for more than 8 years.

My district is home to thousands of our Nation's veterans and has the fourth-largest concentration of American heroes in the Nation. So it is only natural, that at our veterans' clinics and hospitals there's never a shortage of things to do and never a time when additional helping hands are not desperately needed.

It was once said that, aside from love, the most precious thing a person can give another person is labor. Joan has given over 2200 hours of her labor to help the veterans of Florida's Fifth Congressional District—and that is truly something to be honored.

Volunteering at both the Gainesville VA Medical Center and at the Inverness VA Clinic